

REMARKS

This rejection is similar to the previous rejection under U.S.C. §103(b) over Miranti, Jr. in view of Janne. The main difference is the order in which the references are being applied.

Janne is used to show a power transmission belt having a plurality of longitudinally extending grooves (19) and transverse grooves (20) that are inclined, the grooves forming cogs.

Janne is silent about varying the cog lengths and arranging the varying cog lengths in a non-sequential manner along the full length of the belt.

Miranti, Jr. is used, as in past rejections, for the teaching of varying belt tooth lengths. It is stated that the cogs are "randomly arranged in a non-sequential manner along the length of the belt (Figs. 8-9)."

Applicants disagree with the characterization of Miranti, Jr.'s teachings.

In holding that Miranti, Jr. teaches non-sequential random arrangement along "the length of the belt", reference is made to Figs. 8 and 9. In describing Fig. 8, Miranti, Jr. states that Fig. 8 "illustrates one complete sequence of the staggered pattern."

Col. 6, lines 53-60 states that a random arrangement comprises a "sequence of 34 spacings" with the belt 20A (of Figs. 5, 6, 8 and 9) and then there is a "repeating of such a sequence over and over again throughout the entire longitudinal length of the belt construction." Thus, the belt of Miranti, Jr. is defined by repeating sequences.

This is contrary to the asserted teachings of Miranti, Jr. in the Office Action, and contrary to Applicants' claim. Claim 1 recites that the different length cogs are arranged, in a non-sequential manner, along the entire length of the belt."

Miranti, Jr.'s teachings of repeated sequencing cannot be considered merely irrelevant since Miranti, Jr.'s entire disclosure employs repeated sequencing of either groove depths or cog lengths. Even the claims recite repeated sequencing. It is an essential feature of Miranti, Jr.

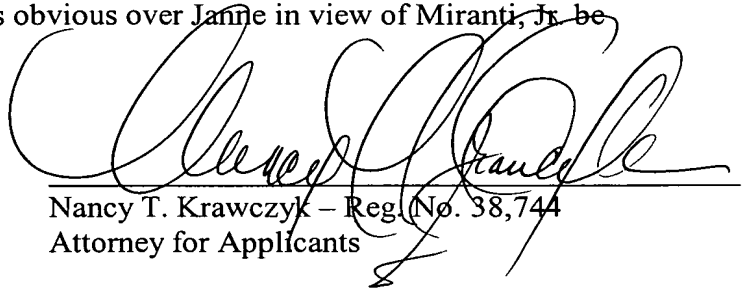
As Miranti, Jr. fails to teach non-sequential arrangement of the different cog lengths, the rejection under U.S.C. §103 fails to recite each and every claim element as required to establish a prima facie obviousness under Graham v. Deere.

Regarding claim 5, and also applicable for the belt of claim 1, the following is set forth.

In a sequence repeating belt of the type disclosed by Miranti, Jr., the sequence itself can establish a harmonic pattern as the belt travels about the pulley. Since the sequence is repeated along the length of the belt, the harmonic pattern is repeated and a sound pattern is generated for a single rotation of the belt.

For Applicants' invention, there is no repeating sequence along the length of the belt. Thus, no harmonic repeating patterns are generated during a single rotation of the endless belt.

It is respectfully requested that the teachings of Miranti, Jr. be reconsidered and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. as obvious over Janne in view of Miranti, Jr. be withdrawn.



Nancy T. Krawczyk – Reg. No. 38,744
Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-6366
Facsimile: (330) 796-9018